

.....NATURE GARDEN NEWS.....

Friends of Hillside Garden Park and Palace Road Nature Garden are submitting a grant application to the Western Riverside Environmental Fund for a project at Palace Road Nature Garden. If successful, work will commence in autumn 2017. It will involve some major landscaping works using excavators and other machinery. Expected outcomes are planting a community orchard, creating new wildflower meadow areas, planting new trees including birch and elm and restoring the second pond.

The orchard location is a 40 metre strip along the boundary wall with the Cheshire Estate. It is south facing and receives unobstructed sunlight. The area will be cleared with an excavator. A wood trellis will be fixed along the length of the wall to grow a mix of vine fruits including grapes and thornless blackberries. A variety of soft fruit bushes and fruit trees will be planted alongside. Residents may pick when in season.

A smaller marshy pond was excavated in 2010 when the main pond was relined. The clay liner has since failed and the pond does not hold water. The digger will be used to excavate and the pond relined with thick rubber material. It will be refilled to a shallow depth before replanting with aquatic plants to create a new area of marshy aquatic habitat.

Spoil from the excavation of this pond was spread out in the woodland area near the front of the site and is now overgrown. This will be removed using an excavator and taken away in skips. The reclaimed area will be replanted with bulbs, seeds and some new tree stock. The wildflower meadow will be extended and reseeded to create more variety and colour.

We aim to cause minimum disruption to our neighbours while work is in progress. Lambeth Council will provide a key to the road barrier so that all site vehicles and machinery will have access via the northern part of Palace Road. There may be restricted access during machine operations to ensure safety of park users.

Our grant application is being made to the Western Riverside Environmental Fund <http://www.wref.org.uk/> and financed from the Landfill Communities Fund administered by Entrust UK: <http://www.entrust.org.uk/landfill-community-fund>

For more information or to arrange a conducted site visit;

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Palace-Road-nature-garden/>

Friends of Hillside Garden Park and Palace Road Nature Garden

Registered Charity number 1122576

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